(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any step has been taken to streamline and control the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As per the world-wide Internet usage trend, web-site owners are free to choose domain name, with any of the category of generic or country suffix after the name of their website. Further, as per the trend globally, country specific domain names have been far more conservative in growth than generic suffix domain names like Dot com. Same is the situation in India in respect of Dot in suffix domain name. However, the available statistics do not indicate a loss of Rs. 2000 crore on this account.

(d) In order to popularise the use of Dot in domain suffix, Government has taken steps to invest in creating quality infrastructure to support the growth, in partnership with private organizations to form an active marketing channel to achieve higher Dot in suffix domain proliferation in India.

BSNL's promotional schemes for mobile subscribers

981. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has lately launched any new promotional schemes for its mobile subscribers to provide greater mobility and higher talk time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which other mobile phone operators and consumer public have reacted and responded to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the promotional schemes were on all India basis and some in selected areas depending upon availability of capacity.

Schemes like full talk time on recharge coupons offered from 22nd September, 2003 till 31st December, 2003 and Student Power-99 from 2nd September, 2003 till 31st October, 2003 were on all India basis.

Some of the schemes launched on area basis were Rs. 600/- free talk time with no activation fees from 19.8.2003 to 31.8.2003, Student Power-99 from 1.11.2003 to 31.1.2004, One + One scheme (1 Cell-One connection free on purchase of One Cell-One connection) launched from 1.7.2003 to 31.7.2003 and Rs. 600/- talk-time free for six months to new Cell One customers from 24.7.2003 to 15.8.2003, etc.

BSNL has also tied up with SBI Cards and ICICI Credit Cards to provide cellular handsets of major brands at attractive monthly instalments to SBI Credit Cards holders and ICICI Credit Card holders.

(c) As per the information gathered from newspapers, other cellular operators also reacted aggressively and introduced matching schemes in both Post-paid and Pre-paid category.

Customer's reaction was very positive. BSNL experienced a substantial growth in customer base with these schemes.

Post Office in Krishna Nagar

982. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1210 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the new departmental building of Krishna Nagar Post Office is far away from Krishna Nagar and is very inconvenient for the residents of Krishna Nagar;

(b) whether the Sub-Post Office of Krishna Nagar, which was temporarily shifted, has not been opened so far causing great inconvenience to the people; and

(c) by when a Post Office would be opened in Krishna Nagar?